

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00

CU-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 ACDA-07 OES-06 HUD-01 HEW-04 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8962

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 15168

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MX

SUBJECT: LOPEZ PORTILLO INAUGURAL SPEECH

1. PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO DELIVERED A ONE HOUR AND FORTY-FIVE MINUTE INAUGURAL SPEECH FOLLOWING HIS OATH-TAKING THIS MORNING IN THE NATIONAL AUDITORIUM. HIS PROGRAM FOR ADDRESSING THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PLIGHT OF THE COUNTRY ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. CLEARLY, LOPEZ PORTILLO'S ESSENTIAL PURPOSE WAS TO BEGIN AN ALL-OUT EFFORT AT THE DIFFICULT PROCESS OF RESTORING THE HEAVILY ERODED CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT. HIS SPEECH WAS UPBEAT, DIGNIFIED, STATESMANLIKE, AND IN MANY PASSAGES ELOQUENT. NO REALIST EXPECTED HIM TO CRITICIZE OPENLY ECHEVERRI'S POLICIES. INDEED, HE DELIBERATELY BEGAN WITH A BRIEF TRIBUTE TO HIS PREDECESSOR, WHO FLANKED HIM ON THE PODIUM. NEVERTHELESS, LOPEZ PORTILLO'S CONSTANT REFERENCES TO THE COUNTRY'S CURRENT STATE OF CRISIS, ITS MANY PROBLEMS AND HIS COMMITMENT TO SOLVE THEM, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THE NEED TO "FACE THE TRUTH OF OUR SITUATION" WERE ALL CLEAR SIGNALS THAT HE HAD CORRECTLY READ THE TEMPER OF THE TIME AND PLACE AND WAS TRYING TO EXORCIZE THE CLIMATE

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OF UNCERTAINTY AND UNREST THAT CHARACTERIZED ECHEVERRIA'S

LAST MONTHS IN POWER.

2. LOPEZ PORTILLO PLEADED REPEATEDLY FOR CALM, COURAGE, PATIENCE, AND COOPERATIVE EFFORT BY ALL CLASSES OF SOCIETY IN THE WORK OF CONTINUING MEXICO'S SOCIAL REVOLUTION. HE CONDEMNED NOT ONLY INSIDIOUS RUMORS (WHICH HE IMPLIED WERE IN PART A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT AT DESTABILIZATION) AS WELL AS THE WIDESPREAD TRANSMISSION OF RUMORS THAT AROSE FROM FEAR ABOUT THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE COUNTRY. IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT WAYS HE EMPHASIZED THAT FEAR WAS MEXICO'S GREATEST DANGER, COMMENTING IN HIS PERORATION, "IF WE ROCK THE BOAT AND IT SWAMPS, WE ALL DROWN. IF WE WANT TO MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT A SHIPWRECK, THE FIRST TASK IS TO CALM DOWN OUR NERVOUS AND PANIC-STRICKEN ACTIVITY. THIS IS WHAT WE REALLY HAVE TO FEAR. LET US REJECT IT."

3. IN THE COURSE OF TRYING TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE, LOPEZ PORTILLO ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO "BIND UP THE NATION'S WOUNDS". HE CALLED ON PESSIMISTS NOT TO ALLOW RESENTMENT TO CLOUD THEIR INTELLIGENCE, INVITED INTELLECTUALS TO RECONCILE THEIR INDEPENDENCE, WITH THE NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICE, AND ASKED THOSE WHO FEEL NO ALLEGIANCE TO THE NATION(DES NACIONALIZADOS) AT LEAST "NOT TO HINDER THE REST OF US. THUS THEY WILL HELP US." IN A MOVING AND REVEALING PASSAGE HE ASKED "DISPOSSESSED AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS" FOR FORGIVENESS FOR NOT HAVING YET LIFTED THEM OUT OF THEIR MISERY, OF WHICH THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS ASHAMED. HE CALLED UPON ALL MEXICANS TO BELIEVE IN HIS SINCERITY, ADDING "I WILL HAVE TO PROVE MY ABILITY AND DISCERNMENT THROUGH MY SERVICE. BUT FOR THIS I NEED TIME. GRANT IT TO ME."

4. THE JADED MAY SAY THAT LOPEZ PORTILLO GAVE AN "ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN" ADDRESS, GENERALIZING ON A NUMBER OF POLITICAL THEMES AND NOT ALWAYS BEING SPECIFIC ABOUT REMEDIES FOR CURRENT PROBLEMS. THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THIS--BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT MERIT IN THE SPEECH, WHICH

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THE AUDIENCE APPEARED TO FIND ENCOURAGING AND MOVING, AND TO WHICH IT GAVE MANY STANDING OVATIONS, WAS THAT HE WAS FRANK ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF PROBLEMS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY FRANK IN ADMITTING THAT HE NEEDED TIME AND THE COOPERATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY TO COPE WITH MEXICO'S CURRENT DIFFICULTIES. IT WAS A PLEA FOR TIME, FOR PATIENCE, FOR FAITH AND FOR GOOD WILL.

5. FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF SUMMARIES OF THE PRESIDENT'S
COMMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY, EDUCATION, LABOR AND EM-
PLOYMENT POLICY, HEALTH, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, AND ARMED
FORCES.

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8963

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 15168

FOREIGN POLICY.

THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THE CONTINUITY OF
MEXICO'S FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS
BASED UPON SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, AND INTERNATIONAL
SOLIDARITY. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR
THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES(AUTHORED
BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WHO STOOD AND RECEIVED A
STANDING OVATION AT THIS POINT IN THE SPEECH).

"ONLY WHEN ORDER IS MAINTAINED AMONG THE
POWERFUL CAN THERE BE JUSTICE FOR THE WEAK WITH WHOM
WE MAKE JOINT CAUSES TO STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION,"
THE PRESIDENT SAID. (THIS WAS THE ONLY REFERENCE TO
MEXICO'S SOLIDARITY WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE
THIRD WORLD).

IN A REFERENCE TO MEXICO'S STRONG POSITION ON
DISARMAMENT, THE PRESIDENT REITERATED HIS COUNTRY'S
DETERMINATION TO EXERT ITS INFLUENCE TO ENSURE THE
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS AND THE PROHIBITION

OF GENOCIDAL WEAPONS THAT THREATEN THE EXISTENCE OF HUMANITY. IN AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS, LOPEZ PORTILLO SAID THAT MEXICO, AS A SOVEREIGN NATION, REAFFIRMS ITS DETERMINATION
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TO ACCEPT AND PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN SUPERNATIONAL FORMULAS OF ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THAT MEXICO REJECTS ALL FORMS OF HEGEMONIC OR IMPERIALISTIC SUBJUGATION AND RENOVES ITS DEMAND FOR AN END TO COLONIALISM. "WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA WHERE GOALS ARE CLEARLY STATED," HE SAID. DENOUNCING ALL FORMS OF SUBMISSION, HE CONCLUDED BY REAFFIRMING MEXICO'S DETERMINATION TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW AND JUST SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORDER FOR UTILIZING THE WORLD'S RESOURCES TO PROMOTE A BETTER LIFE BY DISPELLING IGNORANCE, HUNGER, DISEASE AND VIOLENCE.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

THE PRESIDENT REITERATED MEXICO'S COMMITMENT TO A POLICY ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS THAT WOULD LEAD TO A JUST AND MORE RATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION, PROMOTE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESTORE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE RURAL AND URBAN AREAS. SUCH A POLICY, HE SAID, WOULD BE ENTRUSTED TO THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND AIMED AT PROMOTING THE AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL SPACE, ADEQUATE SERVICES, AND PUBLIC HOUSING FOR ALL.

ARMED FORCES

IN HIS ONLY REFERENCE TO THE ARMED FORCES, LOPEZ PORTILLO CALLED ON MEXICO'S SOLDIERS TO DEMONSTRATE VALOR AND LOYALTY IN SAFEGUARDING THE NATION'S INTEGRITY, PLEDGING THAT HE WOULD NEVER ASK THEM TO SUPPORT ARBITRARY MEASURES OF COVER-UPS AND ABUSE.

EDUCATION

THE PRESIDENT REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION (RESEARCH, TEACHING, ETC.), EMPHASIZING ITS IMPORTANCE TO INCREASING THE NATION'S PRODUCTIVITY AND THE REALIZATION OF ITS DEVELOPMENT GOALS. PLEDGING TO SEEK NEW WAYS OF MARSHALLING RESOURCES TO CREATE CAPITAL FOR EDUCATION, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS MORE CLOSELY WITH THOSE OF THE STATES.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY

THE PRESIDENT PLEDGED HIMSELF TO FORMULATION OF A RATIONAL EMPLOYMENT POLICY BASED UPON SOCIETY'S OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE EVERY WORKER WITH SUFFICIENT
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TRAINING TO MEET HIS NEEDS. WITH REGARD TO SALARIES, HE STRESSED THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THT THEY ARE BASED ON PRODUCTIVITY AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF JUSTICE RATHER THAN "BLIND DEPEND-ENCE ON SUPPLY AND DEMAND." THE PRESIDENT STATED HIS STRONG SUPPORT FOR LABOR UNIONS AND THE JUST PROCESSES OF DEMOCRATIZATION THROUGH WHICH SUCH UNIONS ASSIST MEXICO'S WORKERS TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING.

HEALTH

LOPEZ PORTILLO DEFINED HIS GOALS IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH AS ENCOMPASSING NOT ONLY THE STRUGGLE AGAINST DISEASE, BUT THE PROMOTION OF FAMILY PLANNING, HEALTH EDUCATION, AND REHABILITATION, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS UPON PREVENTIVE MEDICINE. (THE PRESIDENT MADE NO MENTION OF CONTROLLING DRUG ABUSE EITHER IN ITS NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL RAMIFICATIONS.) ONLY A BRIEF REFERENCE WAS MADE TO FAMILY PLANNING.

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